

BHS + E → decide to hold up
on R/I's enlistment into C.P.
another month when
[] fate may become
known. W. 11.6.48

MEMORANDUM

VIENNA

NO.: VSM/C/547

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TO : []
FROM : []
SUBJECT : Stay-behind Potentialities of Ringwald/I
REF :

DATE: 8 June 1948

1. Subject was recommended by [] for use as an agent by this organization to [] during the summer of 1947. He was interviewed on 22 August by [] who recommended he be used as an agent informant to work individually in making local police and special neighborhood investigations required by this office. Ringwald/I was found not to have sufficient contacts nor to be of sufficient high level agent calibre to enable using him in any chief agent or operational cutout capacity.

2. Since January of this year Ringwald/I has been in contact with [] who continued to use him in making special and often hurried neighborhood investigations. [] believes him to be a reliable and trustworthy person with a sincere desire to work with sincere pro-American sentiments. Subject has a long history (since 1930) of police work; he is presently working as a private detective, having taken over a very small detective bureau from an older man who recently retired. This gives Ringwald/I satisfactory and fairly secure cover for his activities for us.

3. Subject has stated his willingness to function as a stay-behind in the event of a partition of Austria. He has indicated his availability for use as a cut-out, letter box or courier as well as the use of his apartment as a safe heaven. However, it is pointed out that he does not appear to have the ability to build up and control his own stay-behind network. When questioned whether he would be willing to join the Austrian Communist Party in order to provide him with additional protection and cover for his activities here in the event of a partition, Ringwald/I indicated his

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willingness, provided the Americans would clear him of such membership at a future date, when and if, the Communists were suppressed in Austria. He further stated that he has several former school friends who are minor CP functionaries.

4. Although Ringwald/I was introduced to [] by [] and knows of the latter's recent arrest by the Soviets, it is felt that this fact would not jeopardise his future use as a stay-behind agent as outlined above. He apparently knows very little about [] actual activities other than his contact with an American intelligence organization. He may know the names of certain minor peripheral contacts who were associated with []

5. [] considers that Ringwald/I could be given a lowly stay-behind assignment as part of another stay-behind network. It is recommended that approval be obtained to authorize Ringwald/I to join the Austrian Communist Party as part of the basic preparation for his utilization in this capacity.

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